

FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROPOSALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government recently announced what we already knew, that the economy has been in recession since last March. According to the Labor Department, from September to October, the unemployment rate jumped from 4.9 percent to 5.4 percent, the largest 1-month jump since February of 1986. There are now 7.7 million unemployed Americans across this country, an increase of over 1,650,000 since March. The terrorist attack of September 11 only hastened the economic downturn and highlighted the need for a Federal response to stimulate the national economy.

Congress, as we all know, is locked in the debate about how best to quickly revive the U.S. and global economy. We need a response that is tailored to meet the problem, one that puts money in the hands of consumers, one that stimulates job creation, one that helps those most immediately hurt by job losses.

Following the terrorist attack on September 11, the House and Senate budget committees issued a set of principles for the economic stimulus package. These principles stated that any stimulus measure should, first, be limited in duration; secondly, that it not cause the Federal Government to have an on-budget deficit; thirdly, that it not result in high, long-term interest rates; fourthly, that it be approximately \$100 billion in size; and, finally, that the cost should be fully offset in the future to ensure maximum repayment of our \$5.8 trillion Federal debt. I repeat that, that the cost be fully offset in the future to ensure maximum repayment of that debt. And that is an important point, that we have to make sure that we pay for what we expend.

□ 1830

Sadly, the House of Representatives' leadership passed a tax bill disguised as an emergency stimulus package which ignored each of those principles. The misnamed Economic Security and Recovery Act, which basically only stimulated the corporations, provides little true economic stimulation to lessen our Nation's recession and will delete the U.S. Treasury of \$274 billion over the next 10 years. Some 58 percent, or \$161 billion, of this total would come from our Social Security and Medicare trust funds. It is coming at the backs of our senior citizens and their pensions.

In the long run, the bill is likely to increase the long-term interest rates, which would raise home mortgage rates and, thereby, threaten the long-term growth of the economy. The fiscal

discipline of the last 8 years that produced the largest budget surpluses in decades would be wiped out by this legislation, especially when combined with a \$2 trillion tax reduction bill passed earlier by this Congress.

The bill includes long-term tax benefits for the wealthiest 2 percent of our taxpayers, \$24 billion in retroactive tax relief for the largest corporations in America, accelerating the reduction in the top individual tax brackets affecting those persons making more than \$297,000 per year, and provided \$21 billion in tax benefits to U.S. corporate profits made outside the U.S. as long as the money is kept outside this country.

A scant 11 percent of the overall benefits of the bill would benefit those that are unemployed due to the downturn of the economy. That is 11 cents out of every dollar would only go for those that are in need.

The irresponsible failure to offset the cost of those tax cuts will leave us with future budget deficits and upward pressure on long-term interest rates. I would repeat that this bill would come and create additional deficits for our country.

Finally, the passage of this bill, and as we look at a bill, we have to make sure that it helps those that are in need and that it looks at stimulating the economy. It should follow the balanced alternatives that would quickly put money in the hands of people who have been hurt by the economic downturn and most likely to spend it and stimulate the economy. September 11 not only hurt New York, but it hurt everyone. It hurt those people on the borders that are having to wait. I ask that we really take into consideration and that we seriously look at what we are doing and that we vote for an appropriate piece of legislation.

BREATHING LIFE INTO HUMANITARIAN LEGISLATION FOR AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States signed legislation to assist the starving Afghan women and children. Not only was this legislation to address these terrible physical needs, but also to address the need to include Afghan women in the political and governmental structure of a new Afghan.

I would simply say that the signing of the legislation and the work that was done by the women of this House and the Senate, many women in the Democratic Caucus who began many, many months ago speaking about the plight of the women in Afghanistan, is something that we all can be proud of. I salute the signing of this legislation.

Right now, there are 1 million people from the Afghanistan nation on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. These individuals are suffering because of the inclement weather and the very cold season. In refugee camps, 175 people have already died, and most of those are children.

It is important as we sign legislation, Mr. Speaker, that we utilize part of the \$40 billion to act on the legislation. The people in Afghanistan need food, they need clothing, they need the ability to be resettled, they need housing that will be warm. In order to make this legislation a living, breathing document, I call upon the President of the United States to expend some of those dollars to utilize them immediately to help the starving children and the plight of those families on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is enormously important that as we fight to rid ourselves and the world of terrorism, that America emphasizes and reemphasizes its humanitarian approach and its view that there is a need to protect families, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago I passed a resolution, H. Con. Res. 228, and that resolution was to emphasize that those children who lost parents or a guardian on September 11 should receive Federal benefits or any benefits with the highest priority. We know of the horrific tragedy of September 11, the divide that it caused in families and the loss of loved ones here in the United States, and I believe it is extremely important to emphasize the need to provide resources for those children. But equally so, as we have made a commitment to helping restructure the nation of Afghanistan, meaning to provide the opportunity for that government to build itself in a peaceful manner, we have also committed to making sure that women will be included in the rebuilding of that nation and in the governmental structure. We realize that the imprisonment of the burqas was the imprisonment of the spirit and of people's freedoms.

Now women are able to take off those uniforms. Now we need them to be fully involved in the structuring of government so that women's interests and children's interests can be emphasized.

Next week I intend to hold a briefing on the plight of children in Afghanistan and the hunger that they face, the devastation that they face, the fact that children have to go to work at 7 and 8 years old to provide for their families making bricks. We must find a way to involve ourselves in the aspects of giving Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan a future and a sense of hope. Particularly, we must find a way to involve ourselves in the lives of those children so that they will become freedom-lovers, lovers of stability and government, and appreciating their

own faith and recognizing that their faith, the Muslim faith, the Islamic faith, is one of love and peace.

We must do that now, Mr. Speaker. We must ensure that the resources are there. We must breath life into legislation that was signed today. We must address the question of 1 million refugees. We must find a way to stop children from dying in refugee camps. We must find a way as well to help rebuild this nation in a way that it stands alongside of the rest of the world family as a freedom-loving place, a place of peace, and a place where all can raise their children in harmony and with opportunity.

SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today was a day that our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), announced that he would not be seeking reelection in the 26th district of Texas, his hometown of Denton, Texas and the county of Denton.

Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader ARMY, upon making this announcement, gathered his family together and spoke with his family about his hopes and dreams of a new life that he wishes to have outside of the Congress. He spent 16 years in this body. This body respects DICK ARMEY. This body loves DICK ARMEY. This body also understands that DICK ARMEY is a man who brought high energy, ideals, high ideals and ideas that have moved this country, that have been a part of the political debate of this country.

I, as one Member, was asked to run for Congress by DICK ARMEY, and he described it to me as a place that would be not only an honorable place and a place where ideas would be talked about and discussed, but also a body upon which was an institution, the institution of the Congress of the United States. DICK ARMEY is one of the few people who have been to the very top who, upon their own choosing, has decided to leave. He served this body with honor and distinction, and he looks forward to those times that he will spend with his family.

But today was a special time, for he had his beautiful wife, Susan, and his family gather with him in this body as he described not only his hopes and dreams of this country that he has served, but also the hopes and dreams of this country when he goes into retirement. It is DICK ARMEY who worked to make this a better place. It is DICK ARMEY who chose to bring ideas not only related to solving one of the more difficult problems of this country related to how we handle military base closings, but it is also DICK ARMEY who talked about and brought from his

years as an economics professor, a doctor of economics, the understanding that what this Congress does when it taxes people, when it takes money from people, what those profound effects are upon not only families and businesses, but also on the psychology of the Nation that no longer could handle deficit spending.

Mr. Speaker, it is DICK ARMEY who understood as a result of traveling all across this country the hopes and dreams that people have about America's greatest days lie in our future, and that is why DICK ARMEY became the father or the author of the Contract With America. Yes, he did work with Newt Gingrich on that, but it is DICK ARMEY and his staff who took it as a challenge, an opportunity, a sharing of ideas, where he stated unequivocally that if the Congress of the United States, the 104th Congress, would focus on those 10 important aspects that were embodied within the Contract With America that were, simply put, giving power back to people who are back home and taking power away from this body, that we could become not only more respectful of the taxpayer, but we could focus on the things that would make this country better.

It is DICK ARMEY who led the battle. It is DICK ARMEY who had the ideas, who shaped not only the things that made a difference in the Contract With America, but it is DICK ARMEY who made sure that they passed on the floor of this House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, DICK ARMEY has served with honor and distinction, not only the people of the 26th district of Texas, but also the people of this country. He was also our elected representative, the majority leader of the Republican Party. He will be sorely missed. Dick has been a good friend of mine, a mentor, and provided me not only with wise counsel, but also talked about how this institution must survive because it is in the best interests of this country.

So on this happy day, there is sadness in my heart, yet I know that DICK ARMEY feels like that he goes out in a way that he chose best, a way where he had a chance to leave this body, where he had a chance to give his very best, and yet he knows that his greatest days will be those times that he will have back in his own backyard with his grandchildren enjoying himself with his beautiful wife, Susan, and praying for this country. For we, too, will continue without him, but we too recognize that the opportunity to take those ideas that DICK ARMEY matured for every one of us, in fact, will make our country better.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss DICK ARMEY. We will have one more year to work with him. But I want the people of this country to know that the time that is spent in Washington, D.C. can be done by honorable and great people and DICK

ARMEY is simply one of those gentleman.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 78) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002 and for other purposes; the joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment; the joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

□ 1845

BASE CLOSURES HARM AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in all probability, tomorrow the defense authorization bill for the year 2002 will come to the House floor.

Three or 4 years from now, it probably will not be remembered for what it has done for military procurement, because it does not do much. It buys only six ships for the fleet, which is actually one ship less than the Clinton administration asked for. It does almost nothing to address the aging of the military air fleet. It does not do a whole lot as far as replacing aging weapons systems.

But what it will be remembered for, if it passes, is the defense authorization bill that comes to the floor tomorrow includes base closure. Having been a Member of the House for three rounds of base closure, I am going to oppose that and offer a motion to recommit, because I truly believe in my heart and in my mind that base closure is bad for America.

First, I think it hurts our Nation's ability to defend itself. I think it is bad for those people who have served our country, I think it is bad for those people who are serving our country, and I think it is bad for those people who will serve our country.

On behalf of those who have served, a little-known fact is that about half of